



Remarks
at the Doing Business with the United States of America Conference

November 10, 2009.
Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic



Dear conference participants, Director of the Central Agency for Development, honorable guests.

I am pleased to welcome all of you to today's conference, the purpose of which is to promote increased business ties between Kyrgyzstan and the United States of America. Trade and investment between our two countries form one of the cornerstones of our bilateral relationship. When I meet with Kyrgyz people throughout the country, they are very interested in finding ways to do more business with the United States. So today we are here to help you, Kyrgyzstan's business leaders, do just that.

We all know the barriers that obstruct business between Kyrgyzstan and the United States: in addition to the physical distance, Kyrgyzstan and America have different legal and regulatory systems, and different business cultures. While these barriers do exist, I believe that there are also great potential opportunities for Kyrgyz and American companies to work together. This conference is intended to help you overcome the barriers and unleash the opportunities.

We are here today because we want you to be successful. We know from experience that doing business with America benefits Kyrgyz businesses, workers and consumers – while, yes, also benefiting American businesses. Whether you are selling your products to consumers in America, or importing American products to sell in Kyrgyzstan, your company will grow and this is good for you, good for your employees and good for Kyrgyzstan.

As I look around this room I am reminded that where we are today, the Hyatt Hotel, is an example of the benefits of U.S.-Kyrgyz business partnerships. The Hyatt Hotels Corporation, an American company, invested in Bishkek and does business with many Kyrgyz partners. Kyrgyz citizens work here and Kyrgyz companies supply the hotel and provide many services. So it is fitting that our conference is taking place here.

While there are several other examples of successful Kyrgyz-American business partnerships, frankly, there should be more. So I wish you a productive and profitable conference - and I hope that the information you receive today will lead to many successful future business deals.

Thank you.